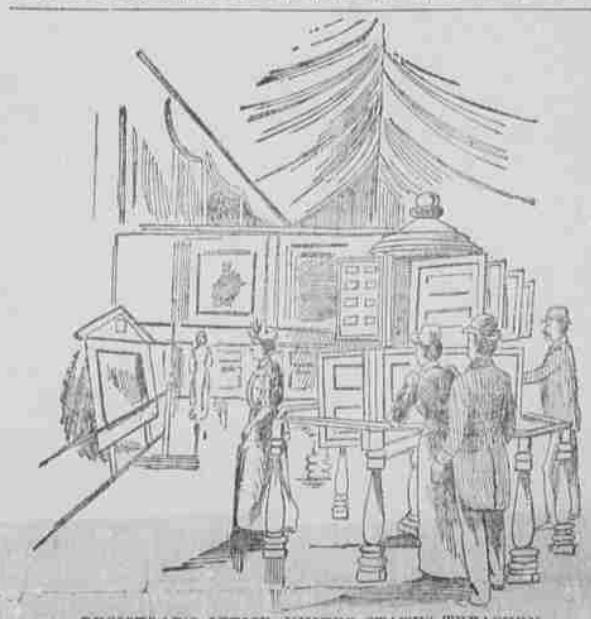
AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

A WALK THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

Interesting Objects That First Attract Attention—How Our Money Is Coined—Bank Note Printing—The Light House Service.

SO MUCH OF INTEREST centers about each of the bureaus represented in the display of the Treasury Department in the Government Building at the World's Fair, that the difficulty of grouping all together is great. Whether it be in the coin collection of the United States mint, the exhibits of quarantine and hospital methods, the money of the country, the instruments and charts of the United States coast and geodetic survey, or the great lamps that will some day shine forth as the beacons on light houses, the very heart of the citizen is touched. Each bureau offers, through the objects displayed, the literature prepared, and the courtesy of those in charge, an object lesson in good government. As the money of a nation is the touchstone of its prosperity, the exhibits of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the United



REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES TREASURY.

States mint at Philadelphia will first be commented upon.

Adjoining the light house exhibit is that of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving of the Treasury department. In cases and frames are specimens of the paper money of the country. In revolving frames at the entrance, with specimens from the Register's office, are Continental notes. Loan Office certificates dating back to 1779, 5 per cent stock of 1790, certificates of indebtedness, etc. There are old treasury notes running up to $1,000, certificates of deposit running up to $10,000, gold certificates of value up to $10,000, National bank notes of from $5 to $100, and specimens of all the United States coupon bonds.

In a large frame are specimens of the fine work of the bureau. Bills, bonds and vignettes are displayed. A dollar bill is shown in its various stages of development, starting from the blank sheet, the development in printing being back of note, face numbered, face sealed and notes separated. In another large frame are shown United States notes and silver certificates of all denominations. In the center of the frame is a sample of the 4 per cent consols of the United States.

SECOND-ORDER LIGHTHOUSE.

A third frame contains portraits of officials of the United States government, all the Presidents being grouped together in a shield in the center. Another revolving frame contains Confederate notes and bonds, and United States District of Columbia coupon bonds. In a frame near the mint's exhibit are specimens of internal revenue stamps, documentary and proprietary of obsolete issues. Other frames contain United States internal revenue stamps, while on an easel are frames containing obsolete stamps.

Following are the gold coins of the United States, from the most valuable ever minted to that of the least worth. Double eagle, $20; eagle, $10; half eagle, $5.

Three-dollar piece, the coinage of which, authorized in 1853, was discontinued under an act of 1890. This coin is a novelty. Its obverse is an Indian's head, its reverse a wreath of corn, wheat, cotton and tobacco.

Quarter-eagle, $2.50—This piece is rarely circulated, but common enough to need no description.

Dollar—There have been few changes in the features of this piece from the time its coinage was first authorized, 1849.

Of the silver coins there is the dollar, dating from 1792, with many changes in design during the intervening years.

Trade dollar—Now obsolete.

Half-dollar—First coined under the act of 1792.

Quarter-dollar, dime and half-dime—Of the same date as the half dollar.

The 3-cent piece was authorized in 1851. Coinage was discontinued under the act of 1873.

There is a splendid collection of ancient coins. Of those of the Greek republics, B. C. 700-30, the index says:

"The highest point of excellence in the art of engraving or die sinking, either in ancient or modern times, was about the time of the fourth century before Christ. The coins generally reflect the art of the period and the places from which they were issued. It was considered sacrilege for any human head to be on a coin, and the main object of the coin-type or obverse was to place before the people an ideal representation of the divinity most honored in the districts in which the coin was destined to circulate. The head of Alexander the Great was the first to appear on a coin, as son of Zeus Ammon, and, as one after another of his generals assumed the title of king, each in turn was emboldened to place his own portrait on his money."

Specimens of these coins are, perhaps the most highly prized of all by collectors.

Adjoining the exhibit of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving is that of the sub-department of lighthouses. Not all the articles sent by the government are yet in place, but enough is shown to prove the value of the whole. The most striking of all the articles is what is known as the hyperradiant lantern, nine feet in diameter and twenty feet high. This is larger than any lantern now in actual use, its value, with lamp, being $17,000. It comes from France, as do the others that are shown. It is mounted on a pedestal. It is made of a series of rings of glass, arranged concentrically, so united that lines of union are concealed. When the work is completed a glass basket encircles the lamp, which in this particular case is of 600-candle power. By using rings of glass joined together the effect of great convex lenses is obtained without the excessive thickening—leading to obscurity—which otherwise would be necessary. Other lenses of lesser magnitude and various patterns are shown. Two model light houses are exhibited, one of masonry, the other being arranged on iron pillars. A third model is in process of erection. An electric buoy is shown with lantern and lamp attached. An interesting exhibit is that of the whistling buoy. The action of the air by varying the degree of compression of a column of air contained in the buoy, causes a whistle of pattern similar to those of locomotives to sound.

That comparison with the great lanterns may be made, Mississippi River lights are represented by models. These are simple kerosene lamps placed on poles in front of reflectors. One of the most interesting of the various articles is a model of a lightship, with specimens of the lamps and lanterns. These ships are anchored outside of harbors and near dangerous reefs. The service is arduous, the constant tossing of the little vessels in wild waters and the loneliness and exposure producing hardships of greater moment than those to which the lightkeepers of the coast are subjected. The men find recreation in literature, books being provided by the government. Each boat and lighthouse is supplied with a case containing an assortment of standard works, which are changed as often as necessary. The visits of the inspectors are hailed with delight, for fresh books and newspapers are there forthcoming as well as the sight of strange faces—an event in each of these isolated worlds.

A RUSSIAN CAPTAIN.

Merciless Brutality in the Land of the Great White Czar.

One fine winter's morning sleighbells jingled in our Russian village. A police captain and his lieutenant made their appearance, wrapped up in furs. Behind them was a mysterious bundle covered with cloth. This all happened before I settled here, but the impression is fresh still. The peasants gathered quickly about the strangers, anticipating nothing good from the appearance of a police officer in their midst, says the Contemporary Review. The captain alighted slowly from the sleigh, eyed his audiences sharply while he calculated the amount he could wring from them, then said sternly:

"Where is your village elder?"

"Here, your Grace," answered a white-haired, venerable peasant, bowing abjectly.

"Your name?" continued the police captain.

"Ivan Ivanovitch, your Grace," answered the old man, bowing again almost to the earth.

"Ivan Ivanovitch," said the captain impressively, addressing the congregation of trembling peasants, "a terrible crime has been committed close to this village on your land."

"In God's name, what?" asked the old man, turning pale.

"See then, for yourself," said the police captain, and with that he threw off the cover and revealed to the panic-stricken gaze of the simple villagers the mutilated body of a dead man. "This is a frightful crime," continued the captain, "and there must be a dreadful retribution. Your community is responsible for this murder and must bear the consequences. There must be a commission sent here: the matter must be investigated."

"Anything but that!" begged the village elder, piteously, stroking and kissing the captain's coat. He knew too well that such a commission meant ruinous fines, to say nothing of floggings for every witness. The peasants with one voice joined in the appeal:

"Anything but a judicial inquiry."

"But the matter is very serious," said the captain. "An inquiry must be held."

"But perhaps you can help us out of the trouble," said the elder persuasively.

"Perhaps," mused the captain, "but it will cost me a lot of money."

"What do you want us to pay?" asked the elder.

"One hundred roubles may do it," said the captain.

"One hundred roubles!" screamed the destitute peasants. "We haven't got as much in the whole place. You want to ruin us."

"Take fifty!" pleaded the venerable elder.

"What, you rascals! Do you take me for a beggar that you seek to dicker with me? However, you seem to be poor; I shall insist only on seventy."

The peasants agreed sadly to the bargain; the money was paid; the captain and his lieutenant climbed into the sleigh once more and drove away with the corpse to the next village. Here they repeated the same performance and as long as the cold weather lasted that corpse represented at least fifty roubles out of every village community it visited. Of course that particular trick will not be repeated in our lifetime, but others just as brutal will take its place, for the peasants are always ready to be fooled and fleeced by anyone who comes along dressed either as a policeman or a priest.

Talking to Herself.

The habit that Southern negroes have of talking to themselves is noticed by everyone in the towns below Mason and Dixon's line. One servant in a Southern family used to carry on conversation with herself, sometimes alleging carelessness and disorder in one tone of voice then defending herself from those charges in another tone. She would upbraid and apply disagreeable epithets to herself when things were not to her mind, while at other times, especially when she was dressed in her best, she would stand before her mirror and assure her reflection that she was just as pretty as white folks.

A Cash Suite.

"An acquaintance of yours, sir?" inquired Brown, as his friend Green lifted his hat to a passing lady.

"Yes, slight acquaintance."

"She smiled very sweetly on you."

"She ought to. The court allowed her $10,000 alimony."

Brown tried to say something about the weather, but his emotions drowned him, and they didn't get chatty again until Green struck a banana peel.

Proof Positive.

Mr. Beanthere Yale—Well, I guess John has settled down to study for his examinations at last.

Mrs. Yale—Why do you think so?

Mr. Beanthere Yale—He doesn't write home for money to buy books as often as he did earlier in the season.

Five States.

Five states—Iowa, Vermont, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois—have no interest-bearing debt, and there are six or seven other states whose bonded debts are more bagatelles. Among the number are New Jersey, Nebraska, Kentucky and California. To a foreigner, or anyone else not familiar with the facts, this would convey the impression that the Americans bear an extremely light burden of debt. Such an idea would be somewhat modified, however, by the knowledge that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe pays interest on $500,000,000 or more, the annual interest charge exceeding $25,000,000—almost as much as the entire interest charge of the federal government. The southern states have a bonded indebtedness of $144,000,000 in round numbers. The total bonded indebtedness of all the states in 1890 was $224,000,000, on which the annual interest charge was $10,000,000. The total bonded debt of the states is about one-third of the national interest-bearing debt.

Peculiar Fish.

The shellfish known as limpets form a very interesting group, of which there are many species having a world wide distribution. Through their ability to cling closely to the surface of rocks by suction, they are well protected from their enemies. The species which live on the leaves of marine grasses, as many of them do, have their sides parallel, and in this way fit exactly to the leaves.

Broke the Record.

A letter mailed in London April 7 and remailed in Hong Kong made the circuit of the world in the fast time of sixty-two days. Both Nellie Bly and Jules Verne might envy the performance of this mute globe-trotter.

A man finds salvation free till he joins the church.

A boy cannot have any place of mind until all his money is spent.

Give your friends money if they need it, but make your loans to your enemies.

We never knew a man so good that his wife didn't often say: "Oh, pa!"

A man never tells that he made a bet unless he wins.

Even the churches have adopted the fad of trying to collect something.

In spring everybody longs for something to eat, and can't tell what it is.

Our idea of a nice man is one who peels a radish before eating it.

There is only one thing the people are willing to cook free for a man, and that is his goose.

The tougher a young man gets, the more his mother loves him.